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Hong Kong – limitation of liability;
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Panama Canal – reinstatement of JIT transit slots; and
UK – Exercise Dragon.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Note: This newsletter is one section of the [Bryant's Maritime Consulting](http://brymar-consulting.com) website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining [Dennis Bryant](mailto:dennis.l.bryant@gmail.com) directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format, requiring use of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by email to the editor or by going to the blog page on the website and clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily newsletter is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. I welcome any criticism that you have so long as it does not affect me.

Strait of Hormuz – Iranian forces board merchant vessel



The Department of Defense (DOD) issued a [news release](#) [located at <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=128686>] stating that the destroyer USS Farragut responded to the distress call of the container ship Maersk Tigris after Iranian forces fired shots across its bow, placed a boarding party on board, and ordered the ship into Iranian waters. The Marshall Islands vessel was transiting the Strait of Hormuz enroute the United Arab Emirates when it was intercepted. USS Farragut is standing by outside Iranian waters, monitoring the situation. (4/28/15).

USCG – LMRWSAC members sought



The US Coast Guard seeks applications for membership on the Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee (LMRWSAC). Applications should be received by 11 May. **80 Fed. Reg. 23806** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-29/pdf/2015-10016.pdf>] (4/29/15).

OSHA – MACOSH charter renewed



The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a notice stating that charter of the Maritime Advisory Committee for occupational Safety and Health (MACOSH) has been renewed. **80 Fed. Reg. 23820** [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-04-29/pdf/2015-09893.pdf>] (4/29/15).

Senate – hearing on USCG budget and missions



The Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation conducted a **hearing** on the Coast Guard budget and missions. **Admiral Paul F. Zukunft**, Commandant, testified. (4/28/15).

ReCAAP – quarterly report



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre posted its **Quarterly Report** for the period January-March 2015. Overall, 38 incidents were reported during this period, an increase over recent years. Notably, the number of incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore during this quarter has doubled compared to the same period in 2014. (4/28/15).

Denmark – STCW refresher course requirement



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a **news release** [located at <http://www.dma.dk/news/Sider/Newrequirementsforrefreshercourses.aspx>] reminding mariners that, after 1 January 2017, STCW certificates of competency relating to firefighting, operation of survival craft and rescue boats, and operation of fast-rescue boats may only be renewed if the mariner has completed a refresher course. (4/27/15).

Hong Kong – limitation of liability



The Hong Kong Marine Department issued a notice advising that Hong Kong has acceded to the Protocol of 1996 to amend the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976, with effect from 3 May. **Marine Notice 64-2015** [located at <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/pdf/mdn15064.pdf>] (4/28/15).

Panama Canal – replacement of EDCS delayed



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory stating that replacement of the Electronic Data Collection System (EDCS) with the new Maritime Service Portal has been postponed, tentatively until 4 June. **Advisory 09-2015** [located at <http://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2015/a-09-2015.pdf>] (4/23/15).

Panama Canal – reinstatement of JIT transit slots



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing, effective immediately, the reinstatement of the Just-in-Time (JIT) transit slots. **Advisory 10-2015** [located at <http://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2015/a-10-2015.pdf>] (4/23/15).

UK – Exercise Dragon



The UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) issued its **Report** on Exercise Dragon. Exercise Dragon, held on 10-11 September 2014, was a live multi-agency oil spill response exercise designed to test the UK's National Contingency Plan. It involved over 180 participants from 39 organizations operating across 15 different response cells. (4/24/15).

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If you have questions regarding the above items, please contact the editor:

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